

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
Director Charles D. Johnson

July 22, 2003

Governor Announces Day Care Rate Increase

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich has signed authorization today that is expected to have a direct effect on the lives of thousands of frail elderly people who need adult day care services in Illinois.

A rate increase to adult day service centers, retroactive to July 1, raises the hourly reimbursement rate from \$6.02 to \$7.02 per hour, a move that advocates hope will stem the tide of closings as the centers reported reimbursement rates did not cover the actual cost of client care. The current increase follows an earlier increase from \$5.52 to \$6.02 per hour that went into effect Jan. 1, 2003. Before that, rates had not been increased since July 1, 2000.

In the past three years, 29 adult day service centers cancelled contracts with the state, citing inadequate reimbursement.

"This increase honors our commitment to two groups important to us," Director Charles D. Johnson of the Illinois Department said as he announced the increase to the network of service providers in Illinois.

"Today we honor the promises we have made to the elderly in this state, and to the working people in adult day service centers who serve them with such devotion. Each of these groups is important to all of us."

Adult day service is offered as an alternative to nursing home placement through the Illinois Department on Aging's Community Care Program. More than 2,000 clients are served at about 80 day care centers throughout the state. Adult day service offers supervised activities, meals and health-related services in a structured setting. Transportation also is provided to and from the centers.

In addition to day care, the Community Care Program offers other supportive services to about 38,000 elderly people every month. It is available to residents of the state who are 60 or over who are at least moderately impaired and who have assets of \$10,000 or less, not including homes, cars and other possessions considered to be critical to living independently.

The adult day care service rate increase, which is estimated to cost about \$1.9 million, is already included in the Department on Aging's fiscal year 2004 budget that went into effect July 1.

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